

County Snapshots are published by the Labor Market Information Division (LMID) of the California Employment Development Department (EDD) to provide a labor force profile of California counties and highlight employment trends and growth. The LMID regularly collects, analyzes, and publishes information about California's labor market, which consists of approximately 17 million workers and more than one million employers. In addition to employment and unemployment data, the LMID provides economic planning information, industry and occupational information, social and demographic information, and a host of other statistics.

County Snapshots include Benchmark labor force data and industry employment. Labor force data assess and calculate California's civilian labor force, employment, unemployment, and unemployment rate. These data are based on the place of residence. Industry employment data provide counts of the number of persons employed by industry, based on place of work, as classified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

The new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) replaces the previously used Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). Many industries are not comparable between the SIC and NAICS classification systems. NAICS identifies hundreds of new, emerging, and advanced technology industries. NAICS also reorganizes industries into more meaningful sectors—especially in the service-providing segments of the economy.

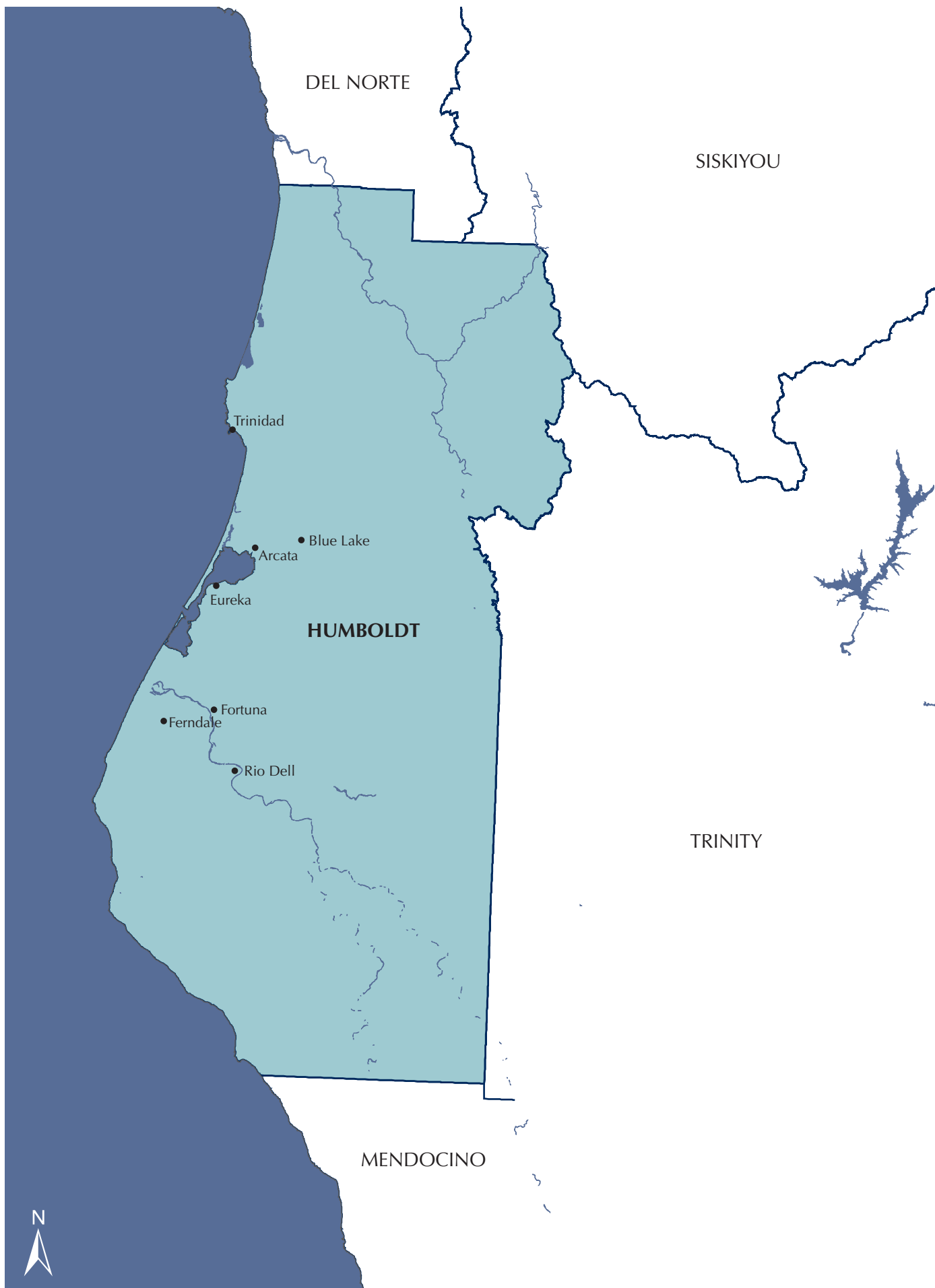
Due to this conversion, county-level industry employment data for California counties belonging to a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) were not available at the time of publication. Data provided in the 2003 *County Snapshots* for these counties reflect the multi-county data. Additional changes in this year's publication include an expanded occupational analysis, using SIC-based industry and occupational projections. The incorporation of NAICS with projections data is scheduled for the summer of 2004.

A complete explanation of these data and additional information are available from the LMID's Web site located at www.calmis.ca.gov. Additional *County Snapshots* and contact information for local labor market consultants may also be obtained through LMID at (916) 262-2162.



Contents

Labor Force	4
Industry Employment	5
Occupational Employment	7
California Labor Market	11





Humboldt County was created from the western portion of Trinity County in 1853. The county's name is derived from Humboldt Bay. Originally discovered in 1806 by a hunting party, the bay was not rediscovered until 1849 and then named in honor of the naturalist and explorer Baron Alexander Von Humboldt.

Humboldt County's 3,600 square miles are known for their rural beauty, roughly 80 percent of which is designated recreation areas and timber land. The county is home to the biggest and oldest redwood trees in the world. Natural resources also make Humboldt a primary tourist destination. Popular sites include: Six Rivers National Forest, King Range National Conservation Area, Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Redwoods National Park, and Richardson Grove State Park.

Humboldt County is the largest and most populous of the north coast counties. The county is bordered by Del Norte County to the north, Siskiyou County to the north and east, Trinity County to the east, Mendocino County to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Department of Finance estimates record Humboldt County's 2003 population at 128,300, an increase over 2002 data of 1,000 residents, or growth of almost 1 percent. The majority of the county's population resides in cities around Humboldt Bay as most of the jobs are in this area. Within the county, the largest cities are Eureka, Arcata, and Fortuna. Eureka, the county seat, has a population of more than 26,000. The city of Arcata, home to Humboldt State University, is estimated to have 16,900 residents. Fortuna, with 10,900 residents, recorded growth of 1.9 percent from the previous year. Department of Finance estimates that by the year 2020 the county will surpass 142,000, growth of almost 11 percent over current figures.

In addition to population growth, Humboldt County's civilian labor force added 300 in 2002 to reach a total of 60,200. The county's 2002 annual average unemployment rate was 6.5 percent, lower than California's rate of 6.7 percent for the same year.

Historically, the lumber and wood products industry, together with the fishing industry, has dominated Humboldt County's resource-based economy. Though many are still employed in logging and fishing, recent employment activity reflects a shift toward occupations in education, trade, transportation and utilities, and hospitality industries. These industries have expanded and diversified the county's economy. Today, government, trade, transportation and utilities, and educational and health services are Humboldt's largest industry employers.

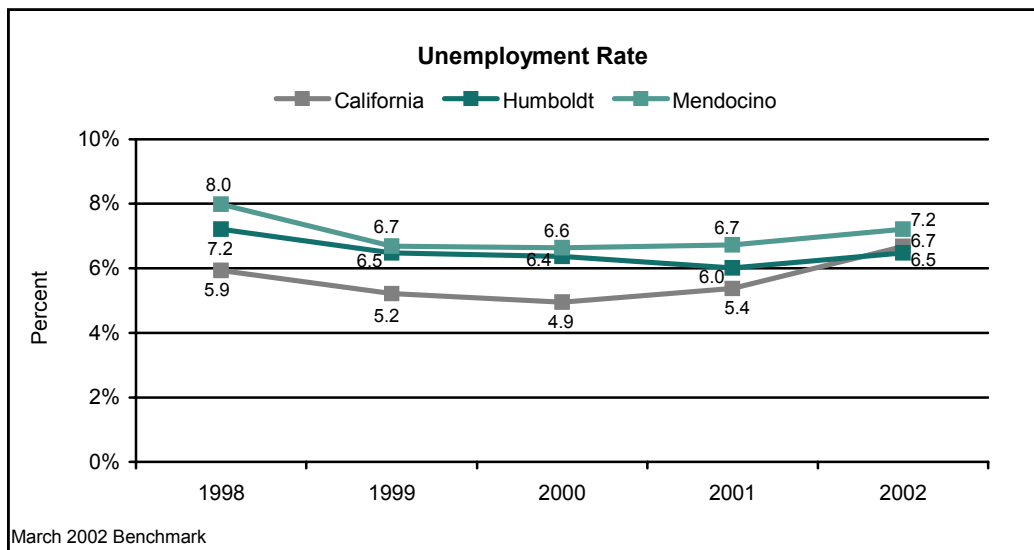
According to 2002 data, government, the largest employer, provides almost 27.0 percent of all employment. Government includes federal, state, and local government components, which operate parks in recreational areas as well as national forests and range lands.

The trade, transportation and utilities industries account for 19.3 percent of Humboldt's employment. Within trade, retail trade is the dominant component, specifically miscellaneous store retailers. Educational and health services industries contribute almost 12.5 percent to the total. Leisure and hospitality industries, another significant employer in Humboldt County, added 200 jobs in 2002, reaching an employment level of 5,400. Within these industries, the majority of jobs (3,900) are in the food services and drinking places component.

Over the last five years, Humboldt County's economic focus has shifted from goods producing to service producing industries. Declines in natural resources and mining, and durable and nondurable goods manufacturing, have been offset by gains in trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government industries.

LABOR FORCE

Civilian unemployment includes persons who are not working but are able, available, and actively looking for work. Individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff, and individuals waiting to report to a new job are also considered to be unemployed. The **unemployment rate** is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labor force. From 1998-2002, Humboldt County's unemployment rate declined a cumulative 0.7 percentage point, from a high of 7.2 percent in 1998 to 6.5 percent in 2002. The rate in neighboring Mendocino County increased to 7.2 percent, surpassing the rates in both Humboldt and California (6.7 percent).

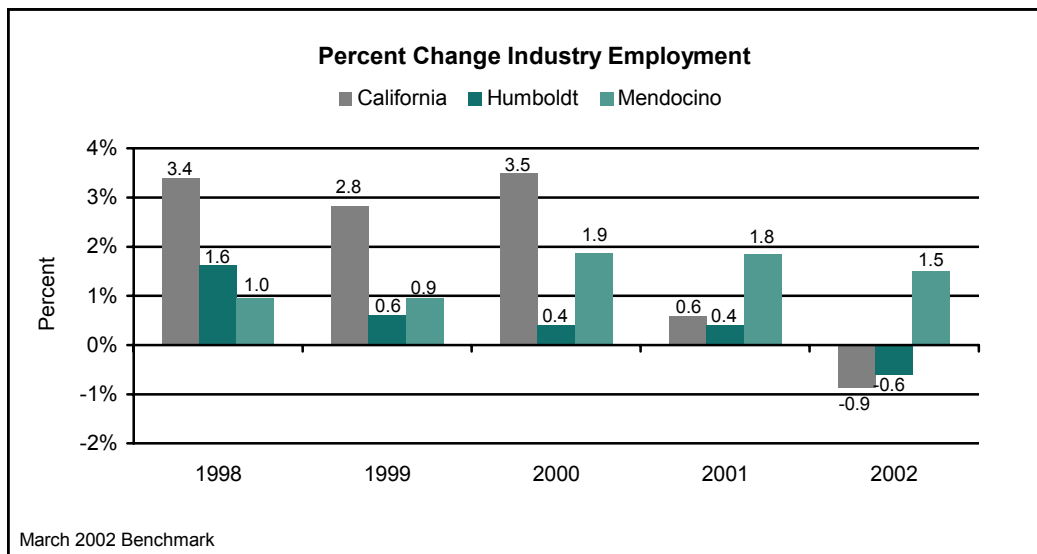


Labor force data, as shown below, accounts for civilians who are age 16 or older and who are working or looking for work. Humboldt County's annual average figures show a decline in labor force of 800 persons since 1998. **Employment** and **unemployment** figures reflect the employment status of individuals by **place of residence**. Counts of employment by **place of work** are referred to as industry employment totals (see pages 5 and 6.)

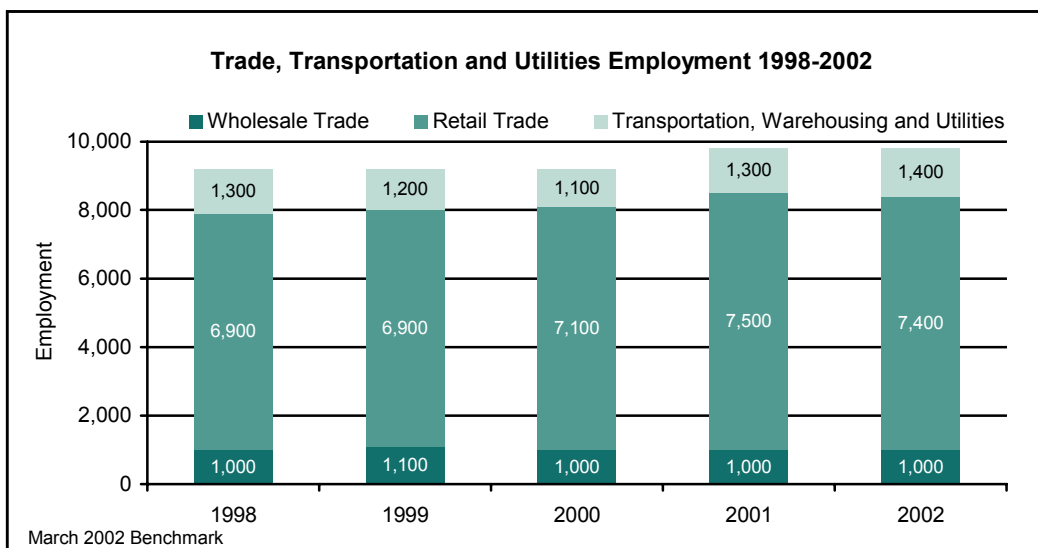
Labor Force Statistics	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Labor Force	61,000	60,300	59,700	59,900	60,200
Employment	56,600	56,400	55,900	56,300	56,300
Unemployment	4,400	3,900	3,800	3,600	3,900
Unemployment Rate	7.2%	6.5%	6.4%	6.0%	6.5%

2002 Benchmark

Despite a decline in 2002, Humboldt County added a total of 400 jobs over the years 1998 to 2002, cumulative growth of 0.8 percentage point. Humboldt's 2002 net loss was 300 jobs (-0.6 percentage point). Declines in some industries, such as manufacturing (-600), professional and business services (-200), educational and health services (-100), were somewhat offset by gains in government (100), leisure and hospitality (200), and construction (100). California recorded an industry employment decline of -0.9 percentage point in 2002, while Mendocino County gained 500 jobs for growth of 1.5 percent.



During the 1998–2002 period, Humboldt County's second-largest growth industry was trade, transportation and utilities. Growth of 5.4 percent concentrated in retail trade, which saw the miscellaneous store retailers component gain 700 jobs, more than offsetting the loss of 200 jobs experienced by general merchandise stores. Transportation, warehousing and utilities increased by 100 jobs or 7.7 percent. Wholesale trade neither gained nor lost jobs over the profiled period.



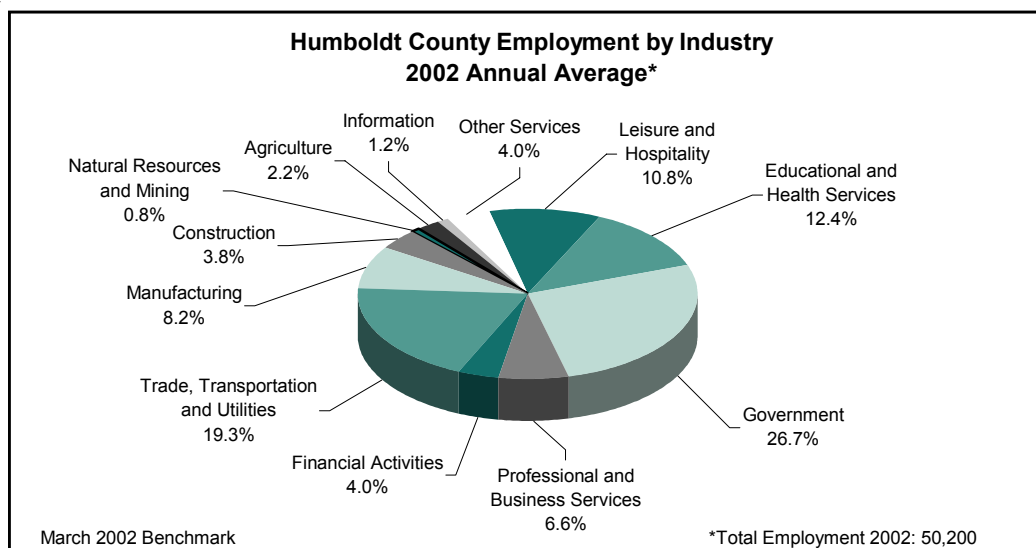
INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

In the table below, Humboldt County's **industry employment** totals are given for the period 1998-2002, showing overall growth in more than half of its industries. Declines were recorded in natural resources and mining, manufacturing, information, professional and business services, and educational and health services. In the year 2002, government; trade,

Employment by Industry	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Agriculture	1,000	900	1,100	1,000	1,100
Natural Resources and Mining	600	600	500	400	400
Construction	1,700	1,800	1,700	1,800	1,900
Manufacturing	5,300	5,200	5,100	4,700	4,100
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	9,200	9,200	9,200	9,700	9,700
Information	900	900	900	700	600
Financial Activities	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Professional and Business Services	4,100	4,000	3,800	3,500	3,300
Educational and Health Services	6,300	6,400	6,200	6,300	6,200
Leisure and Hospitality	5,300	5,300	5,200	5,200	5,400
Other Services	1,700	1,800	1,700	2,000	2,000
Government	11,900	12,100	12,800	13,300	13,400
Industry Employment Total*	49,800	50,100	50,300	50,500	50,200

2002 Benchmark

transportation and utilities; and educational and health services were the county's largest employers. Together, these industries accounted for more than 58 percent (29,300) of the county's industry employment (50,200). Government, the largest employer, provided 13,400 jobs (26.7 percent), while trade, transportation and utilities accounted for 9,700 jobs (19.3 percent). Educational and health services contributed 12.4 percent to the total.



*Totals may not add, due to rounding.

Government is the largest growth industry in Humboldt, as forecast by industry projections using the Standard Industrial Classification system (SIC), and is projected to gain 2,100 jobs during the 1999–2006 period.* Government consists of federal, state, and local government employment, which includes local education, city government, county government, and Indian tribal government. In Humboldt, the greatest growth is expected in local government (an increase of 22 percent or 1,800 jobs).

Largest Projected Growth Industries 1999–2006

	Percent Growth	Job Growth
Government	17.4%	2,100
Retail Trade	5.8%	600
Services	2.3%	300

Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 136 (Annual Job Openings – 19)

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$44,290; Median Hourly Wage – \$19.71

Nature Of Work Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, and protect life and property in an assigned patrol district. Perform combination of following duties: patrol a specific area on foot or in a vehicle; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; apprehend and arrest suspects; or serve legal processes of courts.

Education Most occupations require training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's or bachelor's degree.

Correctional Officers and Jailers

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 97 (Annual Job Openings – 14)

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$47,677; Median Hourly Wage – \$26.31

Nature Of Work Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institution in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit between jail, courtroom, prison, or other points.

Education These occupations usually require a high school diploma and may require some vocational training or job-related course work. In some cases, an associate's or bachelor's degree could be needed.

Recreation Workers

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 57

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$20,764; Median Hourly Wage – \$11.07

Nature Of Work Conduct recreation activities with groups in public, private, or volunteer agencies or recreation facilities. Organize and promote activities such as arts and crafts, sports, games, music, dramatics, social recreation, camping, and hobbies, taking into account the needs and interests of individual members.

Education Bachelor's Degree.



Office Clerks, General

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 41

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$22,815; Median Hourly Wage – \$10.44

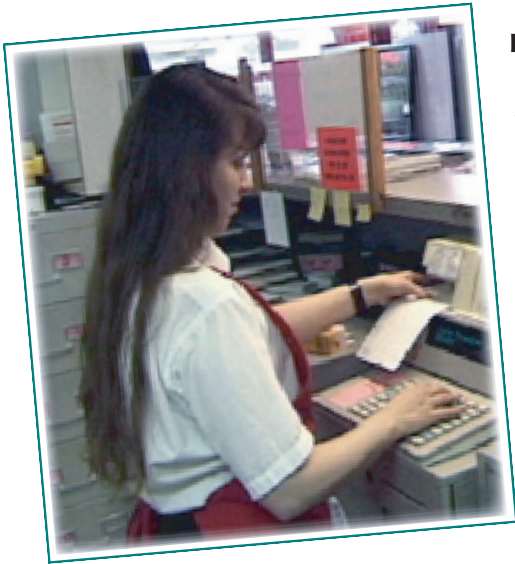
Nature Of Work Perform varied duties, requiring limited knowledge of office management systems and procedures. Clerical duties may be assigned in accordance with the office procedures of individual establishments and may include a combination of answering telephones, bookkeeping, typing or word processing, stenography, office machine operation, and filing.

Education Short-term on-the-job training.

*The projections of employment by industry and occupation will incorporate NAICS codes with the release of the 2002-2012 data in Summer 2004.

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

The second-largest growth industry in Humboldt, *retail trade* is forecast to add 600 jobs during the 1999–2006 projection period.* As defined by the SIC, retail trade establishments sell merchandise for personal or household consumption and are classified by kind of business according to the principal lines of commodities sold (groceries, hardware, etc.), or the usual trade designation (drug store, cigar store, etc.). Retail trade includes employment in areas such as building materials and garden supplies; general merchandise stores; food stores; automotive dealers and service stations; apparel and accessory stores; furniture and home furnishings stores; eating and drinking places; and other miscellaneous retail.



Retail Salespersons

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 163 (Annual Job Openings – 23)

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$21,189; Median Hourly Wage – \$8.69

Nature Of Work Sell merchandise, such as furniture, appliances, or apparel in retail establishment. Examples: Car Dealer; Wallpaper Salesperson.

Education Short-term on-the-job training.

Cashiers

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 147 (Annual Job Openings – 21)

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$17,435; Median Hourly Wage – \$7.62

Nature Of Work Receive and disburse money in establishments other than financial institutions. Usually involves use of electronic scanners, cash registers, or related equipment. Often involved in processing credit or debit card transactions and validating checks. Examples: Auction Clerk; Toll Collector; Disbursement Clerk.

Education Short-term on-the-job training.

Waiters and Waitresses

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 55

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$14,128; Median Hourly Wage – \$6.75

Nature Of Work Take orders and serve food and beverages to patrons at tables in dining establishment. Examples: Cocktail Waiter; Wine Steward; Head Waitress.

Education Short-term on-the-job training.

First-Line Supervisors, Managers of Retail Sales Workers

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 52

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$32,033; Median Hourly Wage – \$13.63

Nature Of Work Directly supervise sales workers in a retail establishment or department. Duties may include management functions, such as purchasing, budgeting, accounting, and personnel work, in addition to supervisory duties.

Education Work experience.



*The projections of employment by industry and occupation will incorporate NAICS codes with the release of the 2002–2012 data in Summer 2004.

Services is the third largest growth industry in Humboldt, according to the 1999–2006 industry projections.* Humboldt County is estimated to experience growth of 2.3 percent or 300 jobs in this industry during the seven-year period. The occupations listed below are those likely to have the most job gains. By SIC definition, services includes establishments engaged in providing a variety of services for individuals, business, and government establishments, and other organizations. Hotels and other lodging places; establishments providing personal, business, repair and amusement services; health, legal, engineering and other professional services; educational institutions; membership organizations, and other services are included.

Teaching Assistants[†]

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 201 (Annual Job Openings – 29)

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$21,897[†]

Nature Of Work Perform duties that are instructional in nature or deliver direct services to students or parents. Serve in a position for which a teacher or another professional has ultimate responsibility for the design and implementation of educational programs and services.

Education Some schools require a high school diploma; while other schools expect aides to have some college course work, especially if they will work in special education programs. Following state law, all schools require applicants to pass a test in reading, language, and math. Aides must be able to communicate well with both students and teachers, and may need clerical skills.

Elementary School Teachers (Except Special Education)[‡]

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 101 (Annual Job Openings – 14)

Salary Mean Annual Wage – \$46,490[†]

Nature Of Work Teach pupils in public or private schools at the elementary level basic academic, social, and other formative skills.

Education The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing establishes the requirements for Elementary School Teacher candidates, which include attaining a bachelor's or higher degree, as well as completing a professional preparation program including successful student teaching, postgraduate work, and various other testing requirements.

Secondary School Teachers, Middle School Teachers (Except Special and Vocational Education)[‡]

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 87 (Annual Job Openings – 12)

Salary **Secondary School Teachers** Mean Annual Wage – \$48,039; **Middle School Teachers** – 44,833[†]

Nature Of Work **Secondary School Teachers** instruct students in secondary public or private schools in one or more subjects, such as English, mathematics, or social studies. **Middle School Teachers** teach students in public or private schools at the middle, intermediate, or junior high level.

Education The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing establishes the requirements for Secondary and Middle School Teacher candidates, which include attaining a bachelor's or higher degree, as well as completing a professional preparation program including successful student teaching, postgraduate work, and various other testing requirements.

Special Education Teachers[‡]

1999–2006 Projected Job Openings – 63

Salary **Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School** Mean Annual Wage – \$49,462; **Middle School** – \$45,735; **Secondary School** – \$48,039[†]

Nature Of Work **Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary Special Education Teachers** teach elementary and preschool subjects to educationally and physically handicapped students.

Middle School Special Education Teachers teach middle school subjects to educationally and physically handicapped students. **Secondary School Special Education Teachers** teach secondary school subjects to educationally and physically handicapped students.

Education The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing establishes the requirements for Secondary and Middle School Teacher candidates, which include attaining a bachelor's or higher degree, as well as completing a professional preparation program including successful student teaching, postgraduate work, and various other testing requirements.



*The projections of employment by industry and occupation will incorporate NAICS codes with the release of the 2002–2012 data in Summer 2004.

[†]For some occupations, workers may not work full-time all year-round. For these occupations it is not feasible to calculate an hourly wage.

[‡]Teachers and Teachers Aides are employed in public and private educational institutions. For ease of presentation, they are included in services here.



COUNTY PROFILE

Population (by largest cities) 2002 2003

Eureka	26,000	26,100
Arcata	16,850	16,900
Fortuna	10,700	10,900
County Total	127,300	128,300

Department of Finance¹

Unemployment Insurance 2001 2002

Claims Paid	7,682	10,529
Total Amount Paid	\$13,773,789	\$22,932,039

EDD, UI Claims and Payment

Workforce Investment Act 2001-2002 2002-2003

Adult	\$620,472	\$476,515
Youth	\$684,962	\$509,320
Dislocated Worker	\$494,256	\$353,111

EDD, Workforce Investment Division²

CalWORKS 2001 2002

Total Participants	5,583	4,531
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California Department of Social Services³

Additional County Data 2000-2001 2001-2002

Community Colleges

Vocational Education students	7,856	8,350
Transfer Prepared students	509	531
Basic Skills students	1,454	1,506
High School (9-12) Dropouts	164	171
Percentage of total students	2.3%	2.5%

California Community Colleges⁴

*California Department of Education
Educational Demographics Unit*

¹Data obtained from the State of California, Department of Finance: E-1 City/County Population Estimates, with Annual Percentage Change, January 1, 2002 and 2003.

²Data included are from WIA Final Allocations for Program Year 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

³Data obtained from the California Department of Social Services, Research and Development Division, Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau's CalWORKs Cash Grant Caseload Movement and Expenditures Report for the month of December.

⁴Data included are from the Performance on Partnership for Excellence Goals, California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office. They represent combined totals from the Redwood Community College District.

California has 58 counties and a variety of industries that contribute to its economy. Information services, high-technology manufacturing, agriculture, and entertainment are a few examples of the broad range of economic productivity in the state.

In 2002, the civilian labor force grew by 221,700, an increase of 1.3 percent over 2001 figures, bringing the total labor force to more than 17.4 million persons. The unemployment rate increased from 5.4 percent in 2001 to 6.7 percent in 2002.

Overall, industry employment in California declined by 128,900 jobs in 2002. Industries recording job losses included professional and business services (60,500 jobs) and information services (53,500 jobs). Components of these industries reporting the largest declines include computer systems design and related services (-29,700 jobs); management of companies and enterprises (-18,800 jobs); Internet service providers and Web search portals (-17,900 jobs); and telecommunications (-12,100 jobs).

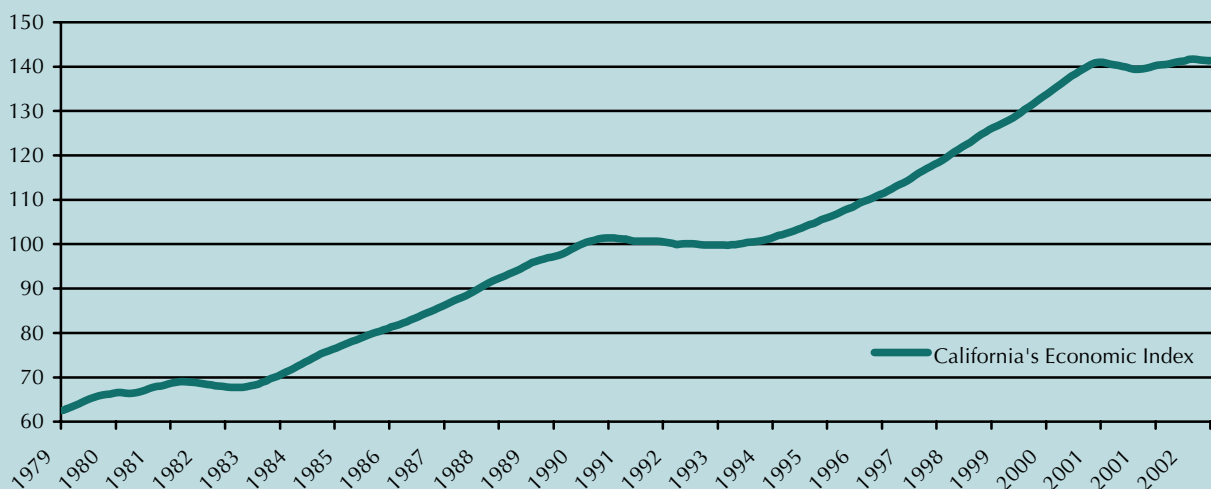
Industries reporting gains included government (66,000 jobs added) and education and health services (52,700 jobs gained). Within these growing industries, the majority of gains were in the following components: local government education (33,600 jobs); ambulatory health care services (22,400 jobs); county government (9,300 jobs); general medical and surgical hospitals (9,300 jobs); nursing and residential care facilities (6,500 jobs).

For the period 2000-2010, California employment projections show that total nonfarm employment is expected to increase by at least 3.2 million jobs, or 22.2 percent. Although growth is projected for every industry, some job loss will occur in smaller sectors of mining, manufacturing, and transportation.

California's population is 36.5 million residents, according to the California Department of Finance's preliminary estimates for January 2003. These new data reflect a 5.0 percent increase over the 2000 Census data that recorded California's total population at 33.9 million.

An economic index compares actual economic activity to long-term trends. It can be helpful for monitoring state economies; comparing the length, depth, and timing of recessions at the state level; and providing a composite measure of monthly economic activity at the state level. This particular index is based on nonfarm payroll employment, the unemployment rate, average hours worked in manufacturing, and real wage and salary disbursements. These four elements are then calculated to achieve the data below, charted from 1979 to the current year. While the overall growth trend of the data is evident, the chart also reflects economic downturns, such as recessions experienced during the early 1980s, again in the early 1990s, and more recently, 2001. The index can also be used to examine other effects, such as: business cycles within the state; national economic forces on the state; and the state's overall economic activity on state fiscal conditions, poverty or in-migration.

California's Economic Activity
(January 1979 to May 2003)



General information provided by "Working Paper 02-7: Consistent Economic Indexes for the 50 States" by Theodore M. Crone, Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (May 2002). Data can be accessed through www.phil.frb.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Local

Humboldt County
www.co.humboldt.ca.us

The Job Market –
Employment Resources for Humboldt County
www.thejobmarket.org



Statewide

Employment Development Department (EDD)
www.edd.ca.gov

EDD's Labor Market Information Division (LMID)
www.calmis.ca.gov

California Department of Finance
www.dof.ca.gov

California Training & Education Providers (CTEP)
www.soicc.ca.gov/ctep

Counting California
countingcalifornia.cdlib.org

National

Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov

Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
www.doleta.gov

Occupational Information Network (O*NET)
<http://online.onetcenter.org>

U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov

FedStats
www.fedstats.gov

